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U. S. Department of Justice

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FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

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7826-48

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: August 15, 1944

FROM : SAC, San Francisco

SUBJECT: RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES
Internal Security - R

For the Bureau's information, VASILIE KUOZNETSOFF, 733 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, who is a source of information of this office and by profession an entertainer, has advised that in the past several months he has appeared as an entertainer at affairs where sailors of Soviet vessels entering the port of San Francisco were present. He stated that he has engaged in conversations with these sailors inasmuch as he is of Russian birth and that he was told by one of the sailors that Japanese sometimes sink Soviet vessels and subsequently allege that they failed to recognize the ship as one owned by the USSR. They point out that the ship is usually of American design in construction and consequently they make mistakes. A sailor has also advised the informant that orders have been issued by Moscow that in the event the vessels are attacked, that they are to be beached at all costs in order to save the cargo.

The informant also advised that the Soviet vessels leaving this port and other West Coast ports go to Vladivostok by way of the Alaska and Kamohatka peninsulas and they are convoyed by Russian patrol planes as soon as they are within flying range of Russian bases. Informant related that some Red sailors are, in his opinion, not loyal to the present Soviet regime. He believes that some are planning to overthrow the Red regime and he bases his conclusion on the following.

He suggested to one sailor with whom he engaged in conversation, that the sailor remain in the United States. The sailor told him that he must take his hardships and that there were thousands like himself who desired to "make a change in Russia". Informant pointed out that the Soviet sailors, while in San Francisco, travel in groups of two to four and he believes that the reason for this is to enable them to spy on one another. He said that they do not act like free men and that aboard the vessels the captain is in charge while on the bridge and is responsible for navigation and interests of the ship but that the ship is really run by a committee which consists of various crew members.

Informant related that Soviet sailors are "opened-mouthed with astonishment" at the sights of San Francisco and are especially impressed by the goods displayed in the various shop windows. They say that in America they find everything that they want and they are consequently envious and point out that they have fought the war for a long while and now have "nothing".

The above mentioned source also advised that Soviet sailors had told friends of his that the USSR has four million soldiers on the Manchurian border as a counter to any possible aggressive moves by the Japanese.

REL:ln

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100-7826-48-1
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EX - 39

36 AUG 21 1944

GEA:vh

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

RECORDED

100-7826-48-1

Date:

To: Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS

Information was recently obtained through an informant who allegedly has frequently engaged in conversation with Soviet sailors on the West Coast concerning Soviet-Japanese relations, that I felt would be of interest.

This informant advised that a Soviet sailor told him that the Japanese sometimes sink Soviet vessels and subsequently allege that they failed to recognize the ship as one owned by the USSR. The Japanese point out that the ship is usually of American design in construction and consequently they make mistakes. A sailor also advised the informant that orders had been issued by Moscow that in the event the vessels are attacked, that they are to be beached at all costs in order to save the cargo.

The informant further advised that the Soviet vessels leaving the West Coast of the United States go to Vladivostok by way of the Alaska and Kamchatka peninsulas and are conveyed by Soviet patrol planes as soon as they are in flying range of Soviet bases.

The informant further stated that Soviet sailors had advised friends of his that the USSR has four million soldiers on the Manchurian border as a counter to any possible aggressive moves by the Japanese.

The above data are for your information.

cc - Director of Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Jones _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED ROOM READING RECEIVED
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P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

56 SEP 30 1944

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

San Francisco 4, California
March 12, 1946

Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES
Internal Security - R

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Dear Sir:

~~Confidential Informant~~ [redacted] telephonically advised me March 8, 1946 that he had received information from the War Shipping Administration officials that the captains of American ships S.S. "Edwin J. Berwind" and "Ross R. Farrington" had been told by the Office of Naval Intelligence to keep their eyes open on their recent trip from Seattle to Vladivostok. Both ships are expected to return to Seattle within the next few days.

[redacted] expressed a desire that the FBI interview these captains, rather than ONI, because he said he had little confidence in ONI.

This matter is being furnished to you merely for information purposes.

Very truly yours,

CWS:emb
cc Seattle

[Signature]
C. W. STEIN, SAC

*memo lead 3-19-46
+ let SAC
Seattle - JF
3-20-46
lw/ly*

201
RECORDED 100-7826-48-2
&
INDEXED 1 MAR 26 1946

EX-40



AIR MAIL

RECORDS SAC, Seattle

March 20, 1946

EX-40 100-7826-48-2
John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Reference is made to the San Francisco letter dated March 12, 1946, copies of which were furnished to the Seattle Office regarding reported requests made of the captains of two American vessels by the Office of Naval Intelligence to keep their eyes open on their recent trip from Seattle to Vladivostok.

The Seattle Office should not attempt to interview the captains of these two vessels but should check with the Office of Naval Intelligence at Seattle for any pertinent information regarding Soviet activities which may be developed by the Office of Naval Intelligence through their interviews with these ship captains.

cc - San Francisco

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

LW:LP

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 14
★ MAR 21 1946 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

57 APR 5 - 1946

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signatures and initials]



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Suite 1729 - 111 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California

April 3, 1946

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO.

Mr. Tolson	FOR VICE
Mr. E. A. Tamm	BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

Personal and Confidential

Director, FBI

RE: RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Dear Sir:

For your information, Special Agent ROBERT E. LANCTOT, during the course of an interview with BERTHEL ALEXANDER MCKINZIE, (San Francisco File 45-507), who entered this port as a stowaway on the SS FLYING MIST from China, learned from MCKINZIE that the Soviet authorities in China had issued passports to the White Russians residing there. This move, MCKINZIE stated, was viewed with the greatest surprise because of the treatment which the Soviets had given the White Russians who were refugees in the Orient in the period between the establishment of the Soviet Union and the end of the war. The White Russians had been looked upon with suspicion by the Soviets and MCKINZIE stated that it is the consensus of opinion among the White Russians presently in China that "there is dirty work afoot."

Very truly yours,

C. W. Stein
C. W. STEIN
SAC

OAE/jo

30 APR 17 1946
208

RECORDED & INDEXED
155-39 APR 10 1946

100-7826-48-3
F B I

W. J. [unclear]
M. [unclear]
P. [unclear]
J. [unclear]
S. [unclear]



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
 Suite 1729 - 111 Sutter Street
 San Francisco, California
 April 24, 1946

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
 FILE NO. _____



Mr. Tolson
 Mr. Tracy
 Mr. Clegg
 Mr. Glavin
 Mr. Ladd
 Mr. Nichols
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. Tamm
 Mr. Egan
 Mr. Gurnea
 Mr. Harbo
 Mr. Hendon
 Mr. Pennington
 Mr. Quinn Tamm
 Mr. Nease
 Miss Gandy

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

RE: RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES IN THE
UNITED STATES
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Los Angeles letter dated November 23, 1945, entitled, "Weekly Intelligence Conference, FBI, ONI, SID," which contains information concerning the Navy's interest in Russian Activities on the West Coast. Reference letter indicated that the Bureau should be advised of any information concerning the Navy's interest in Russian Activities.

On April 19, 1946, Lt. F. R. BREEN of ONI, Twelfth Naval District, called at the San Francisco Office for information in connection with the Navy's "F" Program. BREEN desired to know the identity of any reliable personnel employed by the Moore-McCormack Lines whom he might approach to obtain information concerning general Russian activities, and particularly, ship's manifests, passenger lists, etc. Lt. BREEN explained that the Navy's "F" Program was for the purpose of compiling information of a military as well as economic nature on foreign countries, particularly Russia and Argentina. He stated that they had been instructed by the Washington Headquarters to make appropriate liaison with shipping companies, purchasing agents, etc., in order to be apprised of what was going on in foreign countries, particularly the two countries mentioned above. BREEN indicated that the passengers returning to the United States, as well as purchasing agents, etc., would be interviewed in order to compile the necessary information.

In this instance, we were unable to assist Lt. BREEN concerning the personnel of the Moore-McCormack Lines without exposing the identity of our confidential informant. Inasmuch as there has been little exchange of information with the Navy concerning the Bureau's investigation of Russian activities, the Bureau is requested to advise whether or not information concerning Russian matters should be furnished to the Navy in the field, particularly by this office.

Very truly yours, 7 APR 29 1946

H. B. FLETCHER
 SAC

OAE/jo
 61-99

56 JUN 20 1946



Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Suite 1729 - 111 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California

May 13, 1946

Director, FBI

Re: RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Dear Sir:

Recently, the Chief of Police, CHARLES E. TOVEE, at Chico, California, indicated that one OLGA SEAY had requested from him a general letter of recommendation in order to obtain appropriate papers for entrance into the Republic of Panama. SEAY was born at Chico, California, on March 6, 1923 as OLGA LENA CHERKSHOFF and both her parents, SAM and LILLIAN, were born in Russia.

Chief TOVEE indicated that the subject had said that she had recently traveled in Italy and that, although a native of Chico, she had only resided there a short time.

There is no record in the files of the San Francisco Field Division concerning this person.

The matter is being brought to the attention of the Bureau due to the interest possibly attached to her recent travel in Italy and proposed travel in Panama. No further action is contemplated in this Field Division.

Very truly yours,

H B Fletcher
H. B. FLETCHER TSC

Special Agent in Charge

MFC:JB
61-99



57 MAY 27 1946

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
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EX-6

100-7826-48-5
FBI
19 MAY 20 1946

[Handwritten signature]